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VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 9 NO. 9

NOVEMBER 2006

LV GAY MEN'S CHORUS HOLIDAY CONCERT



November 18, Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 N. Center St., Bethlehem, beginning 8 PM (doors open at 7:30 PM). The highlight of this concert is the world premier of "Brother's Lullaby." "Brother's Lullaby," written by Allentown composer Barbara Martyska, was inspired by Russian poetry and will be sung in Russian. "O Magnum Mysterium" and "The Long Christmas Dinner" will also be featured. Call 610-366-3320 to reserve tickets or for more information.



VOTE TUESDAY, NOV 7

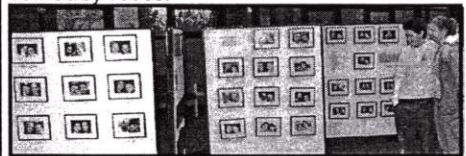
PDN'S PHOTO
PROJECT WAS
SHOWN AT
AIR PRODUCTS
ON NATIONAL
COMING OUT DAY



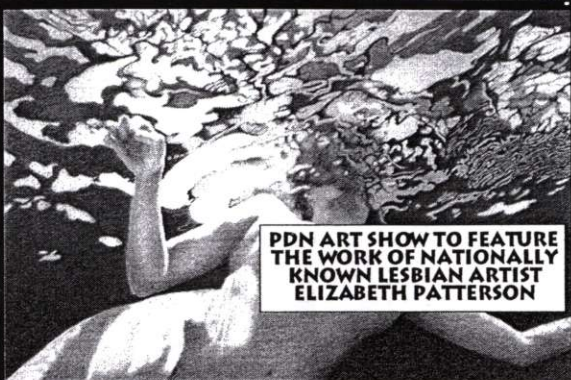
PDN Photo Project participants and GLEE members at Air Products: Winthrop Maynard, Steven Feldman, Charles Versaggi, Tracy Denton, Manuel Diaz, Lester Bahr, Renae Bennett, Roger Whitley



Later on National Coming Out Day, Northampton Com. College GLBT Student Union volunteers hung PDN Photos at NCC. The photos were viewed by 1000s.



See page ____ for more Photo Project information.



PDN ART SHOW TO FEATURE
THE WORK OF NATIONALLY
KNOWN LESBIAN ARTIST
ELIZABETH PATTERSON

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT SHOW

RECEPTION: FRIDAY NOV. 17,
6PM TO 9PM.

SATURDAY, NOV. 18 & SUNDAY
NOV. 19 NOON TO 7PM
PDN GALLERY SPACE,
427 1/2 N. 9TH STREET,
ALLENTOWN.

READ ALL ABOUT IT ON PAGE 5

MCC HOSTS 10,000 VILLAGES NOV 11 & 12

See page 8

R&J PLAY AT THEATRE OUTLET

See page 9

PA CIVIL RIGHTS BILL TO BE INTRODUCED

See page 7

NJ TO GET SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIP RIGHTS

See page 11

PA-GALA ELECTION NEWS

See page 7

PLANNING FOR READING AREA PRIDE FESTIVAL BEGINNING

See page 4

FACT SNOWBALL

20TH ANNUAL SNOWBALL
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3
CROWNE PLAZA -
ALLENTOWN

9TH & HAMILTON STS
COCKTAILS 5:00 PM

SEATING 6:15 PM, DINNER 7:00 PM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

DANCING, SILENT AUCTION, CASH BAR

TICKETS \$60.00 PER PERSON

BLACK TIE FORMAL ATTIRE OPTIONAL

RESERVATION OR QUESTIONS
CALL 570-350-9167

FOR INFO EMAIL INFO@FACTLV.ORG

GLBT Infoline
Greater Lehigh Valley

610-HELP-123

(610-435-7123)

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 5

What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About?"
editor Liz Bradbury with
questions about GLBT issues.



Dear WTA, I was thrilled to receive my October edition of the Valley Gay Press, that was until I got to page 5. I could not believe my eyes when I saw the article about Jim Gerlach for Congress. And yes I am well aware of the fact that he voted against a federal marriage amendment not once but twice. I am also aware that the only reason he did so was because of the federal Defense Of Marriage Act (DOMA). But let me assure you that because he voted against a federal marriage amendment does not make him PRO gay marriage. Quite the contrary, if DOMA should be overturned by the courts, he will vote in favor of a federal marriage amendment in a heartbeat. I know this because he stated it to me in a letter which he sent to me in reply to a phone call I made to his office. The proof of where he stands in regards to gay marriage can be found on the second page. I know Mr. Gerlach's history well from his tenure in the PA Legislature, and have never found him to be supportive of the gay community or the working class for that matter.

I think if you wanted to highlight someone from Berks County who is supportive of the LGBT community, you would choose Rep. Dante Santoni the only (State) representative from Berks County serving in Harrisburg who voted NO on the state constitutional amendment. I thank you for your time and indulgence on this matter.

Yours truly, Richard L Spangler

Dear Readers, PDN asked Mr. Spangler to mail the letter he received from Congressman Jim Gerlach to our offices, and he responded by bringing it to Allentown later that day. It is true that Congressman Gerlach stated clearly that he would vote to pass a Constitutional Amendment if DOMA was over turned. It's notable that PA-GALA has refused to endorse Mr. Gerlach on the strength of this letter.

What's That About also received an email from a VGP reader that contacted Congressman Gerlach's opponent Lois Murphy, because of the information in the last VGP that stated that Murphy has not formally stated her views or support of the GLBT Community to any GLBT voter organization.

The VGP reader received an email from someone in Murphy's campaign stating that Murphy supports non discrimination and does not support a Constitutional Amendment. However, when I wrote directly to Murphpy's office suggesting that Murphy contact PA-GALA or some other GLBT Voter information group to formally record her views, there was no response.

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT

Lehigh Valley Renaissance is a fully chartered chapter of the National Renaissance Transgender Organization. Meetings are open to all persons identifying as Transgender whether you are a crossdresser or in gender transition, MtF or FtM - L.V. Renaissance is there to provide support. Meetings are held in the MCC Church spaces on the second floor of the Merchants Square Mall. Always held on the second Saturday of every month at 8:00 pm Join in and help put the "T" in GLBT !! For inquires or further information - on the web - www.geocities.com/lvrenaissance or email lvrenaissance@yahoo.com

2



RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, Recently my employer has begun to offer a Roth 401(k) option to my retirement plan. What are the benefits to starting this plan? My partner and I each earn about \$65,000 a year. We are currently contributing 8% to our 401(k) plans and both are in our mid-forties. Do we really need one more retirement account to keep track of? **Signed inundated with Paper Work**

Dear Inundated, The Pension Protection Act of 2006 was signed into law on 8-17-2006. This legislation is likely to encourage even more Roth activity in the Retirement World. This new law will allow the surviving partner to maintain the account at the other partner's demise, as a tax-free income vehicle. Previously, this opportunity was only afforded to husband and wife, not children and not domestic partners.

The US government seldom provides us with investment opportunities which are tax-free. When they do, my vote is to take advantage of it. Be proactive about your retirement. Don't try to guess what Congress will do with tax legislation in the future. Historically, they have "Grandfathered" retirement accounts. It is unlikely they will take the tax free status away.

Keep in mind, your account could be sitting there for 25 years before you tap into it. In the financial world, this means COMPOUNDING of interest year after year. This also equates to not having to set as much money aside today, in order to achieve your financial goals.

The downside of Traditional 401(k)s is that every dollar withdrawn from the Trad 401(k) is taxable at ordinary income tax rates once withdrawn. A recent study done by Hewitt Associates determined that about 30% of employers have begun to offer the Roth 401(k) option. You seem to be looking at a great opportunity.

FYI - individuals with 2005 adjusted gross income of \$110,000 or more cannot open a Roth IRA, but can open a Roth 401(k) no matter what their income level. For more information, visit www.roth401k.com

Denise McKelvey CFS is a financial advisor for Ameriprise Financial located at 5100 Tilghman St Allentown. Please e-mail questions to denise.m.mckelvey@ampf.com.

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

READING, PA - What's in a name? For the teen members of the newly formed Spectrum, a name means everything.

It took three weeks and a whole lot of brainstorming before the members of Planned Parenthood of North East Pennsylvania's LGBTQ teen safe space, located in the agency's Reading medical center, settled on the name "Spectrum." They chose "Spectrum," which means a range of colors, because it showcases their pride and diversity, while still providing some privacy to those members who have not yet come out.

Planned Parenthood of North East Pennsylvania (PPNEP) founded Spectrum thanks to a grant by the Diversity Alliance Fund of Berks County Community Foundation. Since its inception in June, the number of teens attending Spectrum's meetings has grown exponentially.

"A lot of kids expressed their gratitude that Spectrum exists. I've heard from several of the kids that they're delighted to have a place where they can finally be themselves," said Amber Brown, a Planned Parenthood sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum.

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Allies are friends and support-givers who want to learn about LGBTQ issues, regardless of sexual orientation. Meetings are held every Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the second floor of PPNEP's Reading medical center. To learn more about Spectrum, contact Amber Brown, at 610-685-0888.

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS: every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Commitment: One evening per month plus a two hour training session. Contact Pete Pellegrino havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page at www.uucvpa.org/haven.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level. The current schedule is:

Tennis: Every Sunday at 5:00pm at the Muhlenberg College courts.

Racquetball: Every Thursday and Saturday, starting at 7:00pm at the Allentown Racquet Club.

Volleyball: Every Thursday at 7:00pm at the Catasauqua sand courts.

Stay tuned for fall activities including bowling, Pinochle, and game night.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website.

GLOSS on the web: www.gloss.org, or email: Info@gloss.org.

DAN ANDERS TO RUN FOR JUDGE

Dan Anders, the excellent openly gay Philadelphia lawyer who represented the City of Allentown in the fight to retain the city's anti-discrimination law, has announced his run for Philadelphia Common Pleas Court judge. The official campaign kick-off will be in January 2007.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

PA-GALA NEWS

The Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA) announced its endorsement of 95 Candidates for the November 7th election.

PA-GALA endorsed Governor Ed Rendell and Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll for re-election because of their administration's strong record on LGBT issues. Governor Rendell has supported domestic partner benefits for state employees and appointed openly LGBT people to state positions. Rendell also supports the LGBT Civil Rights Bill, which would amend the PA Human Relations Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity. "PA-GALA looks forward to working with Gov. Rendell to pass the LGBT Civil Rights Bill in his second term," stated Steve Black, PA-GALA Political Director.

PA-GALA endorsed Bob Casey, Jr. for US Senate. Casey opposes amending the US Constitution to prohibit same-sex marriages. "Casey is a moderate alternative to extreme right wing, anti-gay Santorum," stated Black.

In total, PA-GALA endorsed 10 Republicans and 85 Democrats.

All state legislative candidates endorsed by PA-GALA support the PA LGBT Civil Rights Bill and oppose the PA Anti-marriage Amendment.

"PA-GALA is committed to increasing the number of pro-LGBT Representatives in the State House. PA-GALA will target our resources on approximately 15 races where LGBT voters can help elect a pro-LGBT candidate to replace an anti-LGBT representative," stated Black.

PA-GALA will publicize its endorsements with ad in three LGBT publications: Pittsburgh's OUT, the Central Alternative and the Philadelphia Gay News.

PA-GALA will also mail and email endorsement lists to over 10,000 LGBT voters throughout Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA) is the largest non-partisan voter education and political advocacy organization concerned with issues affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in Pennsylvania.

News Release of Candidates Endorsed by PA-GALA (number denotes legislative district).

US Senate: Bob Casey Jr - D

PA Governor: Ed Rendell - D

PA Lieutenant Governor: Catherine Baker-Knoll - D

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd. Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.

Meeting Dates: Allentown: November 7, December 5. Monroe: November 1, December 6. Reading: November 21, December - no meeting. Pottsville: November 16.

BE A SUPER VOTER

Super voters vote in every election and primary. That's what you need to do to have the strongest voting voice in your district.

Whether you vote or not is a matter of public record. Politicians check the records to see how frequently you vote. If you write them a letter or if you write a letter to the editor. If you never vote, they don't care what you say. But if you always vote, they care about your opinion.

If every GLBTA person in PA was a super voter, we could control every election to elect fair minded candidates who would listen to us.

ELECTION DAY IS NOV 7

US CONGRESS: 1 - Bob Brady - D, 2 - Chaka Fattah - D, 7 - Joe Sestak - D, 8 - Patrick Murphy - D, 11 - Paul Kanjorski - D, 12 - John Murtha - D, 13 - Allyson Schwartz - D, 14 - Mike Doyle - D, 15 - Charles Dertinger - D, 16 - Lois Herr - D, **STATE SENATE:** 2 - Tina Targtaglione - D, 4 - LeAnna Washington - D, 6 - Paul Lang - D, 8 - Anthony Williams - D, 10 - Charles McIlhinney - R, 12 - Jeff Albert - D, 34 - John Eich - D, 38 - Jim Ferlo - D, 48 - John Liss - D.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE: 126 - Dante Santoni - D, 131 - Linda Minger - D, 132 - Jennifer Mann - D, 133 - Joe Brennan - D, 134 - Christopher Casey - D, 135 - Steve Samuelson - D, 136 - Robert Freeman - D, 142 - Chris King - D, 143 - Larry Glick - D, 144 - Katherine Watson - R. (Partial Representative List - if your district is not listed, see www.pa-gala.org.)

4 READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30, PM on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County 416 Franklin St. Reading.

For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call the Help Lines: 610-967-5219, see www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

Meeting Dates for Reading PFLAG:
November 21, December – Holiday Break.

November 21 will include a presentation by the Caron Foundation on its GLBT programming.

BERKS GSA

READING-BERKS GAY/STRAIGHT STUDENT ALLIANCE MEETINGS are held the second Monday of each month from 4:30 – 6:00PM at Atonement Lutheran Church Parish Center, Penn Avenue & Wyomissing Blvd., Wyomissing (accessible by bus – BARTA route 14W). Meetings are open to any interested students. For additional information, e-mail RBGSSA@hotmail.com.

SYLVIA COMICS A NEW FEATURE

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Sylvia comics have been a part of many cutting edge comic pages but VGP is the only local paper to feature this fabulous strip. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! For more comics check out the Sylvia website at www.nicolehollander.com.

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

GLORA

GLORA (the Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Reading and Allentown areas) is a non-profit social group for adult men and women, both singles and couples. GLORA began in 1989 to help fill the social needs of gay and lesbian adults outside of the typical bar atmosphere. GLORA's activities range from potlucks, to game nights, bowling, movie nights, and holiday celebrations. Events are listed in a monthly newsletter that you will receive as a member. Some are family events that include children and some are just for adults. Members of GLORA may host events at their home or at an outdoor location if they desire. Hosting events is not mandatory to be a member. Membership: \$10 per household, annually.

The next GLORA event is: Philadelphia trip by train -- shopping, the Farmer's Market, check out museums, whatever the group decides. Contact GLORA by Nov. 9 if you plan to attend. Web site: <http://glora.1colony.com> email: GLORA@dejazzd.com or write to: GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435.

BERKS GAY MEN'S GROUP

BCGMSG holds social events for singles and couples two to three times a month for gay men from Berks County and surrounding counties. For more info email berksgmsg@aol.com.

READING PLANS PRIDE FEST

GLBT community leaders in Reading are currently planning a Reading Pride festival, that will be held in mid-July. Community meetings will be held soon. Stay tuned for more information.

PDN LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1 -- PDN membership drive mailing, sending the Valley Gay Press and membership information to 2000 households.

November 17-18-19 -- PDN Holiday Art & Craft Show

Mid January to Mid February -- Arrangements are being made for an exhibition of the PDN Photo Project -- 100 Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality at Moravian College's Hub Gallery.

February 9-10 2007 -- PDN will participate in MCC's Freedom to Marry Day Court House Action and Celebration.

Mid June 2007 -- PDN will participate in Greater Lehigh Valley Pride's Pride in the Park Parade and Festival.

Mid July 2007 -- PDN will participate in Reading Pride's Pride Festival.

Mid October 2007 -- PDN will have a team in the Woman's 5k Race to fight Breast Cancer, and will host a brunch afterward at the PDN offices.

If you would like to volunteer with PA Diversity Network and the Valley Gay Press, please contact PDN at info@padiversity.org or 610-432-5449.

MCC HOLIDAYS

MCCLV invites the LV GLBTA community to Thanksgiving Dinner. Away from family this Thanksgiving or just need to get away for awhile? MCCLV invites the Lehigh Valley GLBTA community to a Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 23 at Noon. At the church. If you are able, bring a side dish to share.

LV GLBTA Community Welcome on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day at MCCLV. On Sunday, December 24 MCCLV will have three Christmas Eve worship services at 10:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. and a 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service. On Monday, December 25, MCCLV will host a Christmas Day Dinner at Noon at the church. If you are able, bring a side dish to share.



SOOZ VIEWS

ON FILM *By Sue Sneringer*

5

"Lesser of two evils." It's repeated over and over again in the postings on THE ADVOCATE'S poll website regarding the PA senatorial race. You'd raise some serious eyebrows in our community if you expressed support for Rick (the "P" is silent) Santorum (thanks, Rachel Maddow, or whoever it was who first coined that phrase) but Bob Casey, Jr. ain't exactly warming any hearts among us either. He is an opponent of gay marriage, for one thing. I also suspect he's a serious Catholic. Though Santorum has certainly tried to sell himself as Mr. Clean, he is, in fact, one of the most bought and paid for members of the current body of the US Senate. How he reconciles that with "feed the poor," "clothe the sick," and "do unto others" is between him and his confessor.

I hate this vote. More than I've hated any vote I've ever had to make. Because it is another "lesser of two evils" but especially because I have to hold my nose and select in either of these candidates an opponent of a woman's right to choose, an issue that will always trump gay marriage for me, because a society that does not care about the former will never concern itself about the latter.

Many of my progressive friends, gay and straight, are similarly conflicted about this and we will all vote for Casey

because we also realize a third party option does not exist this time, that either the Dems take back Congress or our democracy may very well be dead. I have encountered some who are mystified at my misgivings because "we MUST get rid of Santorum!" They actually shout at me, suggesting I'm crazy to have any thought to the contrary. That pisses me off. Perhaps they've never had to hold their breath and count the days until their period started. But that isn't even the issue. Choice is everything. Choice is all things. Choice is what makes us free. Even many who call themselves "pro-life" (rather arrogantly, I believe) flinch when really pressed if they are willing to allow the state to tell them what to do about an unwarranted, unexpected, unwanted or life threatening pregnancy. And, in that hesitation, whatever the accompanying soundbyte, is the argument FOR choice. Always. Because choice is life.

If Bob Casey, Jr. were strident about throwing out Roe v. Wade (or even a ban on gay marriage – it IS hard to tell what he's passionate about!) there would be no wiggle room. I'd sit this vote out in good conscience. But he seems to have little interest in that public debate. He "seems" motivated to concentrate his energies elsewhere if elected. I'll give him the benefit of the doubt. I will vote to get rid of the (P)Rick. I will fall in line. Not because anyone thinks I must. But because of the greater irony here, that in this vote I can still make a clear choice.

Happy Anniversary, Marilyn Jean!

PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK PRESENTS

The PA Diversity Holiday Art & Craft Show

Reception: Friday November 17, 6pm to 9pm

Saturday, November 18, Noon to 7pm and Sunday November 19, Noon to 7pm

PA Diversity Gallery Space, 427 1/2 N. 9th Street, Allentown

20% of the sales will benefit the Valley Gay Press, the GLBT Infoline, PA Diversity's Resource Web Site, Rainbow Families, the PDN Photo Project, 100 Same-Sex Couples: Facing Inequality and other PDN programs.

The Artists:

PDN is proud to present a special showing of the extraordinary and very affordable signed prints and other examples of work by nationally known lesbian artist **Elizabeth Patterson**, whose work was recently featured in an in-depth article in the Advocate Magazine. Don't miss your chance to own an example of one of these beautiful colored pencil images of underwater light, color, shadow and nude figures.

Roy Bachert specializes in unique & functional hand thrown stoneware pottery. His work includes bowls, vases, oil lamps, hand carved candle votive, larger serving pieces and the Original Bachert Burning Stone & Wick. Krisann Bachert adds whimsical carvings and etchings to many of Roy's pots. Roy is a member of Artisan Touch, the Valley's only artist's co-op.

Carole Rinkunas, of 'Bobbles and Beads', is also a member of the Artisan Touch co-op. She exhibits her work in a variety of area art and craft shows, and will be featuring earrings, necklaces and other fine handmade jewelry pieces.

Liz Bradbury has participated in art & craft shows all over the US. She will be exhibiting a series of handcolored erotic vintage prints that may not be suitable for children or those who don't laud the aesthetic qualities of women's bodies. In her spare time, Liz is a GLBT civil rights activist

Please remember that some artists do not take credit cards. For more information call the PA Diversity Network office: 610-432-5449 or email: info@padiversity.org.

Kathleen Kapila makes soaps and body lotions with natural ingredients and herbs, sells them at a variety of local craft shows and is a participant in the PDN Photo Project - 100 Same-sex couples.

Bernadette Cozart will be showing several of her hand-crafted Victorian style holiday wreaths, is the President of the Allentown Garden Club and is a participant in the PDN Photo Project - 100 Same-sex couples.

Denise McGlynn brings to the show her wood pulp pottery, knit/crochet hats, scarves, bags and necklaces with pendant stones. Denise has been featured in many local community and college craft shows.

A "communal" booth with a variety of work from many other local artists and crafts people will also be part of the show.

If you have work you feel may be suitable for this booth, please contact PDN.



Don't miss the gala artist's reception on Friday,

November 18 - 6 to 9 pm

Meet and talk with the artists.

Enjoy live entertainment by local jazz legend Roberta Meek, sample fine hors d'oeuvres and wine by Patricia Sullivan, shop and support the community.

Entrance to the reception is

\$5 for PDN members,

\$7 for others.

6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775
ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- see **FACT**
ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
All Together Now - Supportive Ecumenical Christians, 610-398-1286, bluemountain@entemail.net

BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group - singles and couples social events berksgmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

CUUPS -- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uucv_cuups@yahoo.com.

Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GaydarMagazine -- www.gaydarmagazine.com
GLEE at Air Products

GLISN - at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW-at PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays.. Interweave UUCLV@yahoo.com www.uucvpa.org 610-866-7652

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com, <http://www.mcciv.org> 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying), P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

PARENTS- GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519

NOVEMBER 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Muhlenberg play Urinetown		1 HAVEN SPECTRUM M PFLAG	2 RAA GLOSS 19th St. Movie	3 R & J @TO	4 WDIY GLOSS 19th St. Movie
5 GLOSS MCC	6 RAA	7 LVGMC ELECTION DAY!!! LV PFLAG	8 HAVEN SPECTRUM	9 RAA GLOSS 19th St. Movie	10 R & J @TO	11 WDIY GLOSS 19th St. Movie
12 WDIY GLOSS MCC CRAFT	13 RAA BERKS GSA	14 LVGMC	15 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM 19th St. Movie	16 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	17 PDN CRAFT SHOW 19th St. Movie	18 GLOSS PDN LVGM CRAFT SHOW Cond
19 WDIY GLOSS CRAFT SHOW	20 RAA Interweave at Harbor Paraden St. Movie	21 LVGMC R PFLAG	22 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM	23 RAA GLOSS TG Dinner	24 19th St. Movie	25 GLOSS
26 GLOSS MCC 19th St. Movie	27 RAA UUCLV	28 LVGMC LV Pride Meeting	29 HAVEN SPECTRUM	30 RAA GLOSS	CIVIC PLAY	

DECEMBER 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 CIVIC PLAY	2 WDIY GLOSS
3 FACT SNOWBALL	4 RAA 19th St. Movie	5 LV PFLAG LVGMC	6 HAVEN SPECTRUM	7 GLOSS RAA 19th St. Movie	8 CIVIC PLAY	9 WDIY GLOSS
10 WDIY GLOSS MCC	11 RAA BERKS GSA 19th St. Movie	12 LVGMC	13 HAVEN SPECTRUM	14 RAA GLOSS	15 CIVIC PLAY	16 WDIY GLOSS
17 Interweave MCC WDIY UUCLV	18 RAA	19 R PFLAG LVGMC	20 HAVEN SPECTRUM M PFLAG	21 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	22	23 GLOSS WDIY
24 MCC Services 31	25 MCC Dinner RAA	26 LVGMC	27 HAVEN SPECTRUM	28 GLOSS RAA	29	30 WDIY GLOSS

JANUARY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MCC	2 RAA 19th St. Movie	3 LV PFLAG LVGMC	4 HAVEN SPECTRUM	5 RAA GLOSS	6	7 GLOSS WDIY
8 WDIY UUCLV 19th St. Movie	9 HMFF BERKS GSA RAA	10 LVGMC	11 HAVEN SPECTRUM	12 RAA GLOSS	13	14 GLOSS WDIY
15 MCC GLOSS WDIY UUCLV 19th St. Movie	16 RAA	17 LVGMC R PFLAG	18 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM	19 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	20	21 WDIY GLOSS
22 GLOSS Interweave MCC	23 RAA	24 LVGMC	25 HAVEN SPECTRUM	26 RAA GLOSS	27	28 WDIY GLOSS
29 WDIY UUCLV 19th St. Movie	30 CUUPS HMFF MCC	31 LVGMC	SPECTRUM HAVEN	GLOSS RAA		

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, e-mail: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>

Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpsta/vpsa/whatpsa.htm

QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College
Quakers - Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting - Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA.

Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donniearluacas@msn.com
Ren - Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Reading P-FLAG 610-967-5219

Safe Space - At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 117 E Ridge St., Coaldeale 18218 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. Rev. Tom Cormier

T.O. - Theatre Outlet, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

WDIV - WDIV - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
BERKS GSA - 2ND MONS
LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES
LV HAVEN - WEDS
READING HAVEN - WEDS
MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - THURS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS
GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS

OCT 27 - NOV 5 - "URINETOWN"

OCT 28 - NOV 5 - "INFAMOUS"

NOV 3-12 - ROMEO&JULIET

NOV 4-NOV 11 - "THE QUEEN"

NOV 7 - ELECTION DAY

NOV 11-12 MCC CRAFT FAIR

NOV 16 - POTTSVILLE PFLAG

NOV 17-19 - PDN ART & CRAFT SHOW

NOV 17-25 - "RIDING ALONE FOR THOUSANDS OF MILES"

NOV 18 - LVGMC CONCERT

NOV 19 - PRIDE FLOAT HATBORO HOLIDAY PARADE

NOV 23 - MCC THANKSGVG DINNER

NOV 26-DEC 22 - "A GUIDE TO RECOGNIZING YOUR SAINTS"

NOV 28 - GLV PRIDE MTG

DEC 1-17 - CIVIC CHRISTMAS CAROL

DEC 3 - FACT SNOWBALL

DEC 3-9 - "OLD JOY"

DEC 10-17 - "DRIVING LESSONS"

DEC 24 - MCC CANDLE LT SERVICES

DEC 25 - MCC CHRISTMAS DINNER

FEB 9 - MCC COURTHOUSE ACTION

FEB 10 - MCC FTMD CELEBRATION

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449

INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE INTRODUCES GLBT NON-DISCRIMINATION BILL

A bill amending the state's non-discrimination law to include LGBT people was introduced this week and cosponsored by a bi-partisan group of 57 members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. An identical bill was introduced in the state Senate earlier this year.

The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights worked to gather the record number of co-sponsors who supported amending the state's Human Relations Act and developed its language with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

These bills would help protect LGBT people from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.

The Center is asking people to contact their legislators. If your House member or Senator is a co-sponsor, please contact them and thank them for their support. If your House member or Senator is not a co-sponsor please contact them and ask them to support the bills. For a list of cosponsors go to: <http://www.center4civilrights.org/action>.

BINGO A SUCCESS!!!

Over 65 people attended PDN's Bingo Fundraiser on Oct. 22. Prizes totaling over \$2000 were donated by generous patrons and businesses in the community. The event was such a success, PDN is already planning future Bingo events. A detailed list of the generous donors of prizes will be in the next issue of VGP.

URINETOWN

The Muhlenberg Theatre Association presents its original production of the Broadway hit Urinetown, The Musical in the Baker Theatre, Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance of Muhlenberg College from October 27 - November 5. Urinetown is set in a mythical, embattled city devastated by a 20-year drought of epic proportions where fighting for "the privilege to pee free" becomes a cry for revolution. This acerbic and endlessly funny musical about the dangers of both power and freedom has a sharp political bite. Directed by Jim Peck, choreographed by Karen Dearborn, and musically directed by Ken Butler.

MCC FTMD DATES

MCCLV's Freedom to Marry Day dates: Friday, February 9, 10 a.m. Rally at the Lehigh County Courthouse. Saturday, February 10, 7 p.m. Interfaith Worship Celebration of FTMD at MCCLV.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

THINGS I'M THANKFUL FOR
Welcome to my annual list of things I give thanks for...with a twist. I am thankful for all the pro-tolerance groups in the Lehigh Valley. In the Bush era, with the very real threat of limiting people's rights, it's comforting to know we have organizations like the Pennsylvania Diversity Network, MCC Church, FACT and HAVEN, who not only promote the cause of acceptance and tolerance, but celebrate it. Let's get right to the point. We need people to volunteer for another local pro gay organization: Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley.

The LV Pride Fest is dangerously close to not happening in 2007. Community apathy and long held grudges (against people who are no longer involved with Pride) are keeping our Pride Fest from being the fabulous success it could be. Young or old, gay or allied, male or female, F2M or M2F, black, white, brown, yellow, red or polka-dotted. We need your ideas and help. As one of the 3 new interim officers (along with Shawn Bausher and Carol Chadwick) I kindly ask you to attend the Community Forum at The Hamilton Business Center on Tues., Nov 28 at 6:30 PM. Pride won't happen without you. If you can't make the meeting, please email your ideas to Pride at sbausher@prideglv.org or slibby@prideglv.org. We sincerely want to make this YOUR Pride Festival.

Gaydar Magazine Preview: I am also looking for talented writers, photographers and adventurous advertisers for future issues of Gaydar Magazine. We are currently working on our holiday issue. It features exclusive interviews with Olivia Newton-John, Joan Jett, Michael Feinstein, Jim Brickman, Mo'Gaffney, Kathy Najimy and Jason & DeMarco. Lots of photos from the new calendar Black, the coffee table book 10 and humpy Mega Muscle model Matt Walch. Plus an exclusive interview with Sean Considine, author of Bette & Joan: The Divine Feud. Wait til you see those pics! An interview with the director of the new film fest sensation, The Life of Reilly. A look at the life and times of Charles Nelson Reilly. (I love him!). Plus we start our new travel, health and review sections. To be part of the Gaydar Magazine team contact me at gaydarmagazine2@hotmail.com

Diversions: (TV) Ugly Betty, My Name is Earl, Flava of Love's finale, The Amazing Race, Friday Night Lights. (Music) Jet's Shine On, Olivia's Gold, Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Cole Porter Songbook, Lips of an Angel-Hinder, The Fray and My Chemical Romance. (Movies) The Queen, The Prestige, Flags of Our Fathers, Casino Royale, Infamous (cuz one can never get enough Truman Capote!) and Borat (don't ask, just go!) (DVDs) X-Men III, Monster House, Luck Number Slevin, The Ambiguously Gay Duo, The Original-cut Star Wars (finally) (Books) Conversations and Cosmopolitans, Marley & Me, 10, and Monty. (Hottie) ND Quarterback Brady Quinn (Hotress) Jenna Fisher from The Office (Have you seen her made up?!-HOT!) Have a great Thanksgiving and don't forget to vote Nov 7th!!!!



by Earl and Donnie Snyder

Coming Out Straight

Our son Lucas will soon be three. Right now he is learning new things every day. His vocabulary is expanding, he is learning to count, appreciate music, dance, and other physical activities. We are beginning to get a glimpse of what he will be like intellectually, artistically, and athletically. We spend time reading to him, picking out educational videos for him to watch, listening and dancing to music with him, watching him in tumbling class, and taking him to church.

We encourage him to excel in the areas in which he may be talented or gifted. For instance, we took him for swimming lessons because he really enjoyed playing in the bathtub and we signed him up for music school when we noticed how obsessed he was with Madonna's latest video. It's also a good way for him to discover himself and other children that are like him.

These activities are the fun perks that come along with raising a young child. We found the more difficult aspects of raising a child are the basics such as getting him to eat a balanced diet, learning to communicate effectively, potty training, and discipline. This is what we devote the majority of our parenting skills toward. These are the areas that really determine successful parenting in our minds. So far we feel like big flops.

We feel like Joan Crawford every time we serve him a vegetable for dinner and threaten him with the same carrots for breakfast if he doesn't take just one bite. We feel even worse when the one four-letter word we didn't want him to hear, he says repeatedly in front of the grandparents. We had an easier time getting our dogs housebroken than we do getting Lucas to tell us when he has to go potty rather than after he already has. And worst of all we feel like children and youth will be waiting at our door when we get home if we have to discipline him in public for darting across the parking lot or for burping (on purpose) in the restaurant.

It's not always fun and games. Getting him ready for a public appearance can be stressful. Really, two men trying to coordinate a child's outfit and make his hair presentable... Ok, we admit those are the fun parts, what can we say, we're gay men. But he runs from us when we try to fix his hair. He takes off his sandals and puts his snow boots on in the summer. He has no fashion sense. Wait! That's it. It really isn't our fault. He is probably straight! And in 15 years when he reluctantly proclaims his heterosexuality to us, we will tell him it is OK and we love him just the same. How can we not? He is our son.



Rainbow Families helps to coordinate family friendly events and gatherings for GLBTA families with children and is lead by Planet Parenthood writers Donnie and Earl Snyder.

Rainbow Families is now part of PA Diversity Network (PDN). Further information can be obtained through the Rainbow Families yahoo group -- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LV>. Or you can email Rainbow Family leaders Donnie and Earl Snyder at: donniearucas@msn.com.

8

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



MOREVOLUNTEERING

I think I wrote in one of my columns that there exists a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Community Center in Greenwich Village. All kinds of groups meet there. Its great. Every other Saturday throughout the fall, winter and spring months a fundraiser dance is held in a large room on the first floor. Each dance has a different theme and a different target audience.

There's one for flags. Do you remember those guys who used to twirl the fabric around at the clubs? One dance is called the FurBall and all the New York Bears show up. And then there is the one I helped get together on October 14th. This one was called Fetish and the organizers were expecting 700 leather folk to show up. Because so many were expected, the volunteers had to set up two rooms; the dance room on the first floor and the VIP lounge.

Because another group was meeting in the large dance room, we set that up first. This other group was meeting from 6 to 8 and our dance was at 9 so the timing was a little tight, but it would work. Every dance, a volunteer artist is invited to paint a mural which is placed on the wall. An artist from Philadelphia came into the city and painted these penises shaped like dragons (or dragons shaped like penises) and we taped these up on the wall and moved on to the VIP Lounge. I climbed up a ladder to cover all the windows with black garbage bags. The VIP Lounge was supposed to be pitch black. While I was doing this, other volunteers set up the DJ stand and the bar.

A bartender from the New York Eagle was going to volunteer his time and tend bar at this dance. An auction of some professional photographs of leather folk was going to take place during the dance. The photos were hung on a clothes line. Because the room would be pitch black, flashlights were also hung on ropes next to the photos.

Meanwhile the other group started to arrive for their meeting in the big dance room. This was the sexual obsessive compulsive group. They noticed that the room looked different than last week. When they took a closer look at the mural half of them were appalled. (The other half were delighted.) They held their meeting, but I don't know what they talked about. Usually I stay for the dance but that Saturday I had other obligations. The next dance is set for November 11. I am not sure what theme but they're always fabulous.

P.S. Just saw John Cameron Mitchell's new movie *Shortbus*. It is hot and beautiful. If it ever gets to the Lehigh Valley go out and see it.

-- Editor's note: Scott Laubner has been writing his VGP column since 2002. Until a year ago, Scott lived in Allentown, but he now lives in and writes his column from the Big Apple.

10,000 VILLAGES @MCC

MCCLV will once again be sponsoring a 10,000 Villages Craft Fair on November 11 from 10:00am to 4:00pm and November 12 from 12 noon to 3:00pm. Crafts from around the world will be sold...they are well-made, inexpensive and make great gifts. The sale of these crafts help support the artisans and their families, often as their only income.

MCC ATTENDS CONFERENCE

November 3-5 - twenty people from MCCLV will attend the MCC Regional Conference in Pittsburgh, attending various workshops, worship services and fellowship activities. Lay Delegates Jen Andrews and Vanessa Taggart along with Clergy Delegate Rev. Beth Goudy will take part in denominational business meetings.

19TH STREET MOVIES

19th Street Theater is at 527 N. 19th Street, Allentown

Infamous - Oct. 28 - Nov. 5

This new Truman Capote biopic stars unknown Toby Jones as the renowned writer, who became uncomfortably close to murderers Perry Smith and Dick Hickock while researching his masterful nonfiction novel *In Cold Blood*. Also starring Sandra Bullock, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Daniel Craig.

The Queen - Nov. 4 - Nov. 11

The Queen is an intimate, behind-the-scenes glimpse at the interaction between Queen Elizabeth II (Helen Mirren) and Prime Minister Tony Blair during their struggle, following the death of Diana, to reach a compromise between what was a private tragedy for the Royal Family and the public's demand for an overt display of mourning.

Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles - Nov. 17-25

A Japanese father travels to China's Yunnan province in place of his ailing son to film a famous folk-opera star, bringing him unexpectedly closer to an understanding of both his son and himself.

A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints - Nov. 26 - Dec. 2

Writer Dito Montiel's highly cinematic memoir of his childhood in Queens, N.Y., makes the leap to the big screen, with the author himself getting behind the camera to helm this powerful — and at times gut-wrenching — adaptation. The film flits back and forth between the adult Montiel's (Robert Downey Jr.) emotional return to the neighborhood after a 15-year gap, and the childhood antics that led him to flee to Los Angeles in 1986. Also starring Rosario Dawson.

Old Joy - Dec. 3-9

Two old friends, Kurt (Will Oldham) and Mark (Daniel London), reunite for a weekend camping trip in the Cascade mountain range east of Portland, Oregon. For Mark, the weekend outing offers a respite from the pressure of his imminent fatherhood; for Kurt, it is part of a long series of carefree adventures.

Driving Lessons - Dec. 10-17

A coming of age story about a shy teenage boy (Rupert Grint) trying to escape from the influence of his domineering mother (Laura Linney). His world changes when he begins to work for a retired actress (Julie Walters).

Muhlenberg Film Forums

Wednesdays: After the show, attend a FREE discussion of the film, hosted by Muhlenberg College faculty member Paul McEwan, assistant professor of communication, and associate director of the Film Studies program.

STEVIE Z PIANO MAN

Allentown's own Stevie Z will be playing piano for the reception at the annual Snowball at the Crowne Plaza on December 3rd. For more info, please contact www.factlv.org. Be sure to check out Stevie's webpage at: <http://steviezpa.tripod.com>.

GLBT PRIDE FLOAT ON SUNDAY NOV. 19 IN THE HATBORO HOLIDAY PARADE. TO TAKE PART CALL BEN DETTINGER AT 215-443-0626 OR E-MAIL VELVETHAMMER@PEOPLEPC.COM.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor — Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor — Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)

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Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800
PFLAG Allentown -- see meeting schedule
Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
19th Street Theater -- 527 N. 19th St. Allentown
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley (UUCLV)
-- 424 Center St., Bethlehem
Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV
Theatre Outlet, 930 N. 4th St. Allentown
Most Libraries in Berks County
Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown
Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown
Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown
Fountainhead Books -- 641 Penn Ave. West Reading
Dreamscape Comics -- 310 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month, except the Pride - July issue which is earlier. The membership cycle of PA Diversity Network begins in January. Circulation: 1500-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500.

To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.

R&J PLAY AT THEATRE OUTLET

Shakespeare's R&J, By Joe Calarco; directed by J.C. Lee, Co-presented by Theatre Outlet and the Omicron Theatre Project. November 3 - 12, 2006 At the Theatre Outlet in Silkwerks in Allentown.

In this hot-blooded re-imagining of Shakespeare's opus of star-crossed love, four boys at a repressive Catholic boarding school discover a contraband copy of *Romeo and Juliet*. As they embark on a series of secret, sweaty-palmed after-school readings, they discover the hypnotic power and beauty of the Bard's poetic language, while at the same time unearthing something even fiercer among them ... desire. A daringly imaginative adaptation of the classic tale of teenage yearning and rebellion.

For more information about performances and to buy tickets online log on to theatreoutlet.org or call the TTO box office for reservations- 610.820.9440.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

10

Name/s _____

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State _____

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☐ Senior dues (over 65) \$5

☐ Individual dues \$15

☐ Family dues \$20

☐ Berks County (2006) - Free

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN. Additional contribution
Make checks payable to PDN.

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MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

**BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK
TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

PA Diversity Network begins its 2007 membership drive with the mailing of this issue. If you received this VGP in the mail, and you have not paid your 2007 membership dues yet, there is a stamped envelope addressed to PDN in this mailing that you can use to send in your dues. Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a one year -- ten issue subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$15 for an individual membership and \$20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not for profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 100 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and business on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN occasionally receives grant money for projects, but mainly exists and functions financially on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2007 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of new people in Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group. It's free.

BERKS AND LEHIGH VALLEY SERVICE PROVIDERS AND BUSINESSES

List your GLBT-friendly business on the PA Diversity Network web site. Go to the resource page at www.padiversity.org and just fill out the form on-line.

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S UPDATES RESOURCE WEB SITE WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

is getting a major overhaul. We're still working on PDN's new upgraded site, with even more information and content than before. Valley Gay Press, GLBT Infoline, Rainbow Families and other PDN programs are all part of PA Diversity Network. PDN thanks web weaver Melinda Kohn for all her web site work. Please bear with us!

PDN IN 5K RACE NEXT YEAR

Members of PA Diversity Network took part in the women's 5k race against breast cancer in Allentown in October. Next year, PDN will be having its own team. The Team Captain will be Anne Huey. And PDN will host a special brunch for team members after the race, featuring wonderful food by Patricia Sullivan. All team members are welcome. Mark your calendars.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



LIZ OUT LOUD[©] 11

NEW JERSEY

By Liz Bradbury

If you read the mainstream press, you've seen it. New Jersey's Supreme Court has found in a 4 to 3 decision that same-sex couples are entitled to "the same rights and benefits enjoyed by opposite-sex couples under the civil marriage statutes."

Obviously this is some good news, but the problem is that the court fell short in requiring civil marriage. In fact Steven Goldstein, the chairman of Garden State Equality, said the court's decision was disappointing, he said, "Those who would view today's ruling as a victory for same-sex couples are dead wrong. Half-steps short of marriage -- like New Jersey's domestic-partnership law and also civil union laws - don't work in the real world."

It's important to note that the NJ 4-3 decision for equal rights was actually a conservative decision -- the dissenting 3 Justices had been backing full marriage rights. The NJ State legislature now has 180 days to come up with some sort of equal rights arrangement for couples. They could amend the State's marriage law to include same-sex couples or they could do what Vermont did and create civil unions. Maybe they will do the right thing, but I'm predicting they'll create a form of civil union and call it that. Don't be fooled into thinking that civil unions offer the same rights as civil marriage though, even if some government entity or candidates says it's the same, it's not.

The differences: #1: Civil Unions only confer the state rights of the state where the civil union was issued. And they are not "portable" from state to state. More simply, Trish and I got a Vermont Civil Union in 2000, and we get no rights at all from it here in PA. The same would go for a PA citizen getting a civil union in New Jersey. Conversely, opposite-sex civil marriage is recognized in all states, no matter which state a couple is married in. State marriage rights include things like: health benefits, hospital visitation, inheritance rights and taxes, divorce, adoption and child custody. PA married couples get 700 state rights.

And difference #2: Civil Union does not confer any federal rights. Civil Marriage confers 1400 federal rights. Federal marriage rights include: Social security, immigration, IRS taxes, family and medical leave, Medicaid, inheritance taxes, veteran's benefits, health insurance, pensions, spousal immunity, etc.

There is some good news for us though. In six months a state right next to PA will be getting, at least, civil unions. Couples could move to NJ and still probably see our PA friends and family now and then, because they won't be that far away. We could all get NJ civil unions (there is no residency requirement in NJ to get married there) and then commute to jobs in NJ, and the companies would probably have to give our partners health benefits. And we can also use the fact that all NJ employers will have to give benefits to same-sex couples with civil unions. That means that, for example, hospitals in the Lehigh Valley will now be in competition with benefit granting hospitals in NJ. Maybe local employers will see the light.

Learn the differences between civil unions & civil marriage and explain them to everyone. Great Thanksgiving conversation. Don't forget - we already have religious marriage - MCC, UUC, Reform & Reconstructivist Judaism, Quakers -- all do same-sex religious marriages. And if a straight person still insists civil unions are the same, ask them if they would relinquish their marriage for a civil union that does not give them any federal rights.

NEW GLBT FRIENDLY BUSINESS

Jai Yoga! in Bethlehem is a GLBT-friendly yoga studio, located at 514 3rd Avenue, Bethlehem, www.yogawithholly.com, 610-417-3804.

TRISH'S COLUMN[©]

By Patricia Sullivan

NO PLACE FOR HATE?

".... they shooed away the bums, then they beat and bashed the queers, turned away asylum-seekers, fed us suspicions and fears.

We didn't raise our voice, we didn't make a fuss.

It's funny there was no one left to notice when they came for us."

from "Re-gaining Unconsciousness" by punk band NOFX

The City of Allentown formally signed on to the Anti-Defamation League "No Place for Hate" program at the Allentown Human Relations banquet. Participants in the "No Place for Hate" program agree that all acts of subtle and overt racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and ethnic bigotry substantially undermine our communities, schools, and the promise of equal justice. Meanwhile, Councilman Louis Hershman continues to pursue a flawed city immigration ordinance directed at a minority that might be visually identified and therefore be disproportionately discriminated against.

Although there are people who "feel" undocumented workers are a problem, no factual evidence has come forth documenting claims in the city. In fact, evidence seems to indicate the opposite. Speaking a language other than English or speaking with an accent does not make one an "undocumented worker." When people are unable to easily verify a persons "legal status" there is a tendency to treat anyone who looks or behaves differently as suspect.

Councilman Lou Hershman has a history of anti minority bias. He circulated petitions and personally solicited signatures to remove housing, employment and public accommodation rights from GLBT citizens of Allentown in 2002. Those petitioners tried to create suspicion and fear of gay men and lesbians in our community. Now the supporters of Hershman's immigration ordinance seek to create suspicion and fear of nonwhite citizens in our community. Remember the unscrupulous tactics used by the petitioners in 2002. They lied to voters about the intent of the non-discrimination ordinance and they promoted hateful and vile lies implying GLBT people were a threat to children and the community. In their desperation they even filled in petitions illegally. Fortunately, they failed. Now those people who are uncomfortable with the diversity in our city are poised to target another minority.

The bottom line is a significant number of people (Latinos primarily, but other non white community members as well) will face increased discrimination simply because they are not white, if the Hershman ordinance is pursued. Our community knows first hand how divisive a referendum effort can be.

Don't lend your support to this effort or sign a petition that could target your friends, neighbors and coworkers and their families remember. Remember how it felt when the GLBT community was targeted by Hershman, only a few years ago.

PRIDE GLV FUTURE UNCERTAIN- A PLEA FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

At the conclusion of this 2006 Pride season, with the delay in corporate sponsorship, low festival attendance, and the resignation of the president and vice president, the organization is in danger of dissolution. Interim officers: Shawn Bausher, President; Stephen Libby, Vice President; Carol Chadwick, Secretary, have been appointed. Pride needs new members, volunteers and financial donations, so programs and activities will take place in 2007. Please attend Pride's community forum on Tuesday, November 28, 6:30pm in the Hamilton Business Center, 1101 Hamilton Street, Allentown.



POP QUIZ 12

1. Martina Navratilova just turned 50. She came out publicly in 19___. A. 81 B. 87 C. 93 D. 99
2. A major National History Museum in ____, has been targeted by local church groups over a historic exhibit, "Against Nature," believed to be the first in the world to examine the role of same-sex animal pairs. A. London B. Oslo C. Berlin D. Madrid
3. This museum exhibit shows that homosexuality has been observed in more than 1,500 animal species, and is well documented in ____ of them. A. 200 B. 350 C. 500 D. 700
4. Which of these colleges give domestic partner benefits to same-sex partners of employees? A. Lehigh Valley College B. Muhlenberg College C. Lafayette Univ. D. Lehigh Univ.
5. Which of these PA State Senators voted to pass an amendment to the State Constitutional Amendment that would also ban civil unions in PA? A. Lisa Boscola B. Pat Browne C. Rob Wunderling D. Mike O'Pake
6. Which of these PA State Senators voted to pass a State Constitutional Amendment to ban same-sex marriage? A. Lisa Boscola B. Pat Browne C. Rob Wunderling D. Mike O'Pake
7. Which of these State Representatives voted to pass a State Constitutional Amendment to ban civil unions and same-sex marriages? A. Jennifer Mann B. Steve Samuelson C. Doug Reichley D. Karen Beyer E. Dan Santoni
8. Congressman Charlie Dent voted to pass a Federal Constitutional Amendment to ban same-sex marriage (true or false).
9. Though Congressman Richard Gerlach has voted against a Federal Constitutional Amendment to ban same-sex marriage, he says in letters to constituents that he would vote to pass such a ban in the Constitution if the Federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is overturned (true or false).
10. Election day is: A. November 2 B. November 5 C. November 7 D. November 10

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

"The Good Parts" edited by Nicole Foster, 2005 Alyson Books, 14.95

This book of "pure lesbian erotica" (as it says on the cover) was donated to PA Diversity Network by Fountainhead Books, which closed its doors last month. It's a 250 page collection of 59 very very short story vignettes that just cover the sexual encounters between two (or more) women and nothing more. The idea of cutting out everything but the "good parts" may have seemed like a good plan, but, though the excerpt-like contributions by 59 different authors are well written, they lack the sexual tension and emotional build up an actual story or novel would have. Every character always "gets lucky" within one page. No surprises, no hot dialog, no hints, no chance that the page might end without every character getting laid. This book makes you realize that the actual sex acts aren't what makes a good book really erotic.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Mer's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLSH of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater

19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Hasikalah

The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

United Friends School Quakertown

To add your organization to this list, Contact VGP

QUOTE #1

"In a time when many municipalities, ...including Allentown, ...and in fact this entire country, ...are struggling with possible legislation that pits groups of people against each other, ...at a time when politicians, from local city councilmembers, to those based in Washington, seek to enshrine discrimination against minorities by inflaming the basest feelings of fear and intolerance, while ignoring facts and common sense... this award to Gail Hoover honors her successful effort to do just the opposite, ...and serves to remind us all, what fair minded, tolerant, progressive elected officials can do, when we elect them." -- From Liz Bradbury's introduction of Gail Hoover before Gail accepted the Allentown Human Relations Commission award on Oct.24.

QUOTE #2

"Why does she have to be so cruel?" cried the Simon Gratz High junior, who asked that her name not be used. "I'm proud to be who I am." -- 17-year-old female student as she left the room in tears after exchanging words with one of the critics who opposed gay history month. The Philadelphia School District stood by its decision to note Gay and Lesbian History Month on its official calendars.

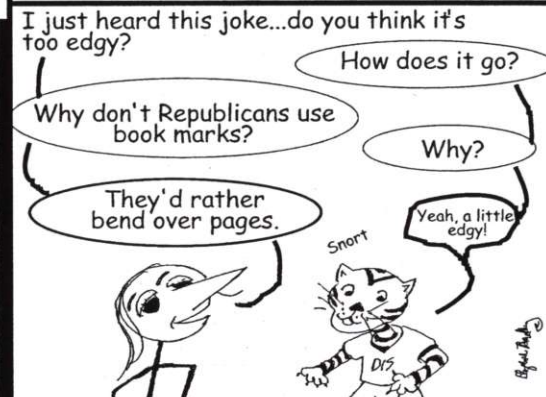
QUOTE #3

"If Republicans are smart they'll do several things immediately: admit their complicity, establish safeguards to better protect these young pages and realize that blaming gay America for their misdeeds and mishandling won't fly this time. --Joe Solmonese, President of the Human Rights Campaign speaking about the Republican reaction to the Foley scandal

QUOTE #4

"Conversion therapy is opposed by nearly every medical and mental health professional association, including the American Academy of Pediatrics. Studies cited by ex-gay leaders to support their claims suffer from fatal methodological flaws and are contradicted by respected, peer-reviewed academic research. Tragically, ex-gay and evangelical Christian right leaders are using bogus theories and discredited research to frighten parents into doing something more likely to harm than help their children." -- Jason Cianciotto, Research Director, Policy Institute, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

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The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG